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CENTRE OF CRIMINOLOGY
NOV 13 1972
Centre of Criminology
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TORONTO 179, Ont.
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BREAK THROUGH

Vol. 4, No. 4 Hamilton, Ont., Canada Fall 1972

"Obvious answers to Guelph is to just get rid of it"

By CAROL VERDUN

I discussed my September visit to the Guelph correctional center (reformatory) with an Ontario government employee who is closely connected with the department of correctional services.

He said, "Of course the obvious answer to Guelph is to just get rid of it. But any politician who suggested that would be voted out of office. It is one of Ontario's oldest institutions. There are a lot of people on staff who are there because they started when the institution was hiring people who couldn't get jobs anywhere else.

"Then you have the seniority problem. It is difficult to get rid of civil-servants who have seniority."

Getting rid of Guelph certainly is the logical solution. To get rid of Guelph means to get rid of an institution that requires an almost monumental number of changes if it is to achieve its goal of rehabilitation.

The Guelph correctional center is understaffed, according to the people with whom I spoke.

Lieutenant Ross Ferguson told me that his area (correctional officers) was so understaffed that the officers do not have sufficient time to check the files to read the inmates' pre-sentence reports. Other staff members indicated that the same problems existed in their departments.

But lack of sufficient help is not the only thing that is wrong with the Guelph reformatory.

I was told of differences of opinion between the younger and older staff members, with the older staff (The ones who "started when the institution was hiring people who couldn't get jobs anywhere else") feeling that "the punks shouldn't be coddled," and resenting innovations such as the temporary-absence program.

The much-lauded temporary-absence program which allows an inmate to work or attend school in the community during the day and return to jail at night and weekends only serves to emphasize need for change in the visiting regulations at Guelph.

The visiting room is located in "the tower", and is a depressing area in which no privacy is afforded the inmate and his visitor.

Visiting hours are from 9.30 to 11.30 in the morning, and 1.30 to 4.30 in the afternoon. Each inmate is allowed one visit per week of onehalf hour in duration if it occurs during a Saturday or Sunday; and one-hour on a weekday.

During the good weather families can visit on the center grounds, an inmate must make an application for each family visit. These visits take place from 1.30 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Contradictions in statements from various staff members occurred so frequently in the interviews that I had to doubt that any person with whom I spoke had been completely honest with me.

And what about certain policies and practices at Guelph that breed discontent among staff as well as inmates?

An "employment committee" interviews incoming inmates to determine in what employment area within the institution the inmate should be placed.

I was told, "It is not always the inmate's choice of where he goes to work," and I suspected that it was rarely the inmate's choice.

An Ontario government employee explained, "An inmate wants a carpenter course, so he is assigned to the kitchen. He spits in the pea soup-literally-because he is angry. Then he is moved into segregation and is punished. You have moved him into a confrontation with the staff."

Ross Ferguson told me that there were no provisions made for private interviews between, for example, an inmate and his lawyer: John Lee, (former Superintendent) told me that "it can be arranged."

John Dacre, director of the neuro-psychiatric clinic for the department of correctional services, told me that drugs "are not easily accessible." David Waters, supervising after-care officer for the department said, "It certainly is easy to get drugs into institutions, especially here at Guelph," and John Lee, when I asked him about drug usage in the institution said, "I have heard of it."

Ross Ferguson, who for two days arranged interviews and showed me around the institution, is responsible for designating duties of the officers, assembling work parties, and running generally the day-to-day operations.

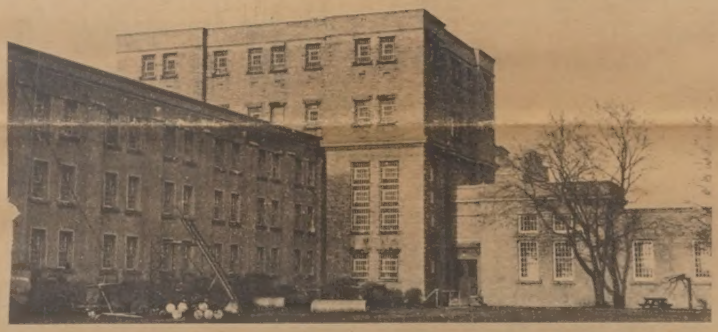
He told me that in his opinion the ideal inmate population would be 200. There were 700 inmates when I visited the institution, and there have been as many as 1050 in the past.

One of the most important reasons why we should "get rid of Guelph" is a physical one.

I saw 27 beds, between which there was barely room for a thin person to walk, crowded into a gray depressing dormitory. I saw padlocked boxes which contained the inmates' possessions, for which there was no room except on or under those beds.

I saw cells, six feet by eight feet, which are used for inmates who must be segregated for their own protection for one reason or another, the most common reason being for those who have committed offences against children.

The 27-bed dormitories according to Lieutenant Ferguson, are always only partially full. However, a former inmate told me that while he was at Guelph for a recent six-month sentence, the dormitories were always filled to capacity, except on infrequent occasions when there would be one or two empy beds.



The "tower" at Guelph correctional center: (reformatory) it's not even a nice place to visit!

The above article courtesy of the Elmira Signet.

If you are to punish a man, retributively
you must injure him:
if you are to reform him
you must improve him:
and men are not improved by injuries:

George Bernard Shaw

3000 year sentence to be appealed

Terry Eugene Culley, 21, chose to have his time delivered by a jury and it only took the jury, nine men and three women, two hours and 10 minutes to set the punishment-3000 years.

Ordinarily, under state law Culley would be eligible for parole in 20 years but in this case Assistant District Attorney Jim Barklow said that the state board and paroles has indicated that when a jury delivers a long sentence of this nature they will not grant a parole.

Unlike Canadian law, some states in the U.S.A. allow the jury to set the punishment. The defendent has a choice-whether or not he wishes to have punishment set by the judge or the jury.

Culley pleaded guilty to murdering an insurance broker, Jean Geron, Sept. 24, 1971, in the brokers' North end Dallas home in an attempted jewel robbery.

In the final argument the assistant district attorney asked for the long sentence because he said that Culley had, "executed a well-thought-out crime."

Culley's defence lawyer, James Martin said that the sentence will be appealed.

Congress of Corrections

The John Howard Society of Hamilton recently received a letter from the Planning Committee of the Canadian Congress of Corrections asking for suggestions on the theme of the 1973 Congress in Regina. Below is a direct quotation from the letter.

"Essentially, we felt that a broad theme was necessary to encompass a range of complex developments which appear to be dominating the movement and direction of criminology and corrections in the early years of this decade. In our view, we have entered a period in which the criminal justice system is undergoing fairly rapid and, perhaps, significant change. On the one hand, many of the traditional concepts of crime, treatment and prevention are receiving serious scrutiny and, in many cases, are being significantly modified. On the other hand, there is a new impetus to broaden the scope of corrections--in practice as well as in theory--beyond the immediate bounds of the offender, prisons and the correctional system. This climate has hastened the spread of new ideas, programs and initiatives in crime prevention and treatment across the total spectrum of criminal justice. They range from criminal law reform to "community corrections," and include renewed efforts by governments to develop integrated, systematic approaches to the problems of crime and corrections.

At this stage in the process, we have found it necessary to ask you for your help in developing a program which is relevant, interesting and useful to all participants. We should emphasize that we are interested in receiving input from all sections of criminal justice (law, law enforcement, judiciary, corrections) and from all levels of the process (theory, practice, research, administration). In view of our theme, we would particularly welcome the views of practitioners, volunteers, and others directly involved in programs and services which are representative of the changes occurring in corrections."

One of the major changes occurring in Corrections in Canada is the involvement of the inmate and ex-offender in correctional programs. Ex-inmates and inmates are not just the "recipients of service," but in many programs are now staff. One troubling ommission in the list those people requested to send in suggestions for 1973, is the lack of the words offender, inmate, ex-inmate or ex-offender. Perhaps the most important people in the whole correctional process are covered over in that phase "others directly involved in programs." Surely those citizens of Canada who have been subjected to the correctional process should have something of importance to say.

Participation by "those who have been caught" in the Canadian Congress of Criminology and Corrections has in the past been sporadic and haphazard. Every other group represented at the Congress is organized, has a definite purpose, recognized methods and a uniform approach to correctional programs. What Break Through suggests is an organized, unified effort on the part of citizens who are, or have been recipients of the correctional process, to express their views on what the correctional process should be.

The Planning Committee state: "On the one hand many traditional concepts of crime, treatment and prevention are receiving serious scrutiny, and, in many cases, are being significantly modified."

Perhaps all methods should receive serious scrutiny at the 1973 Congress. If delegates were divided into heterogenous groups, workshops could be held in which many correctional methods are put on the hot seat for a day or two.

The result of such a process could be the growth of understanding among all people involved in the Congress Organized groups of inmates and ex-inmates could play a vital part in such a process.

J. K. Fairbank

SILENT THOUGHTS

Oh, how I wish I really knew
How this affair will end
Will things be as they were before
Or will we just be friends?

Do you place me in your future
When silently you dream?
Or do you place me there among
The things that might have been.

D.B. (The Telescope — Feb., 1954)
Kingston Penitentiary

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:
Greetings from the Banana Belt!

Thanks for the "appointment".....though, I don't know who 'advised' you of it.....I made some enquiries around here, and everyone is as equally baffled. But will try to do my best for you, as I think you've started a great thing, and feel privileged to be on the team.

Did I say "...do my best for you"?? realizing I'm already off to a bad start, as this story is being filed late...

Incidently, I didn't have to look far for this article, as I'm the President of said Gavel Club.

From my file: 28 years old, a first offender, doing a 6-year bit for robbery. Am determined to make it the last bit too! Will be here until (hopefully) the spring of '73.....when I face the Parole Board. Currently working as the hospital Orderly here. Very interesting work.

O.K., I'll let you get busy chopping this story. Let me know your next deadline, and will try to be on time. Could you fill me in on how you got my name, - or how I was selected.....? as little things like this b u g me... Best of Luck.

Peace,
Pat
(Clark Kent of the West Coast)

FAREWELL LES

Recently the editor of BreakThrough submitted his resignation. It was accepted.

Joining the staff as editor in the summer of 1970 (Vol. 2, No. 2), Les Ironside was responsible for the move from a mimeographed product to the present offset printed format.

At first BreakThrough was printed in "Pony Size" (11" x 84") but within three issues we moved to "Tabloid Size" a format with which Les was more familiar.

Professional Journalist

A professional journalist by trade, Les Ironside was a great asset to BreakThrough during its formative years. His technological knowledge eased the amount of tedious work during layout and his connections in the world of journalism brought in many fine articles. To Les we extend our appreciation for two years of voluntary service on behalf of ex-inmates everywhere.

The delay in the publication of this issue is largely due to the problems created by the resignation of our former editor.

BreakThrough staff have decided not to appoint another editor, but to try to function as a team, with all staff members contributing articles and editorials. We will require the help of all inmates, ex-inmates, workers in the field of corrections and citizens at large to produce a newspaper which is informative, critical, pertinent and progressive. Please send in your articles, comments etc. to

Editorial Office
BreakThrough
228 Bay St. South
Hamilton, Ontario

Please Note - DO NOT SEND ANY CORRESPONDENCE TO THE FORMER EDITOR.

EDITORIALS

Is it right to kill?

Soon the political representatives of Canada will vote on whether it is right to kill another human being. Sometime during the next session of Parliament the issue of Capital Punishment must be decided.

The issue is a simple one -IS IT RIGHT TO KILL?

The issue is not whether it is right to kill an individual after he has killed someone else.

If asked whether it is right for one human being to take the life of another human being most people would say "NO!" Then some would add certain exceptions: war, mercy killing, murder, rape, child-molesting, child beating, the killing of a policeman or prison guard etc. etc.

But the issue is not whether under certain conditions it is right to kill.

The issue is: IS IT RIGHT TO KILL?

Violence is to be abhorred. Violence is rape, assault, beatings, gang wars, armed hold-up, killings. These things are wrong. At least in Canada they are against the law. How then may a country whose laws prohibit violence, use violence to enforce the law?

We are deciding a philosophical-religious issue. We are not deciding what is expedient, least costly, or what happens to suit the mood and temper of a lynch mob. One political candidate in southern Ontario in the current federal election stated that he is A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE DETERENT EFFECT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. His statement is an honest one. He is a BELIEVER. The dictionary defines belief as follows: "conviction of the truth or reality of a thing, based upon grounds insufficient to afford positive knowledge." In any Court of Law "insufficient grounds" results in the dismissal of the charge.

One cannot prove that capital punishment has or has not a deterent effect. One believes either way. We are therefore trying to decide a philosophical-religious issue. - IS IT RIGHT TO KILL?

Before dismissing deterence let us look at some of the current statistics about murder. Murder is on the increase! The majority of murders are impulsive acts! The greatest percentage occur through family quarrels! The majority of murdered policemen were killed investigating family quarrels or while arresting mentally ill people. The majority of murder it seems centres around the family.

The Chief of Police Association and other police associations would have us believe that the only factor influencing the increase in murder among Canadian families is the lifting of the death penalty five years ago. The continued growth of urban areas, the development of congested high rise accommodation, the continued neglect of city-centre slums by speculative investors, the continued PROGRESS toward automation which creates utterly boring jobs, the growth of the assembly line, the increase in unemployment, the increase in food prices, the general increase in the cost of living etc., are factors which the Police Chiefs Association would have us believe, have no effect on the emotional stability of the family unit.

The solution to murder is found somewhere in the quality of life in our society, certainly not in the sanctioning of killing by the State.

We therefore return to the philosophical-religious issue. - IS IT RIGHT TO KILL?

J. K. Fairbank.

Nobody votes in my town

As another general election day approaches, no doubt much is at stake in my country. But nobody votes in my town and most of my 3,700 townsmen apparently are chronic **misfits who couldn't care less. My town seems a million miles from my hometown; Beausejour, Manitoba. My town is "Jacktown"-Southern Michigan Prison, near Jackson.**

Now in the morning chow line, a young murderer and a middle-aged burglar seem ready to tangle in an argument on the merits of the Republican Party. An alert guard breakes it up just in time.

The burglar is serving his fifth term in my town. I know him well. So, after he cools off, I needle him a bit, saying, "I take it you voted for Hubert Humphrey in nineteen sixty eight."

"You kiddin'?" he scowls. "Man, I never voted in my life. I got sense enough to know no matter who gets elected, the best any little guy's gonna get is the worst of it. The hell with votin'!"

That's seditious philosophy, isn't it? "The hell with votin'!" means down with democracy, your country, your government and consequently, every home (where government really begins) in the land.

Yet, I have been guilty of comparable "sedition." It came out disguised something like this: "Didn't get around to voting; had too many other things to do on election day." The reflection isn't easy to face, now that I am exiled from my Canadian voting rights for many elections to come.

I begin to wonder how my neighbors feel about not being allowed to vote. Later, I question nearly 300 of them. Almost 90 percent merely shrug or otherwise indicate lack of concern. Eighty individuals admit that they had never voted! (Could the deeds that landed us here be germane to such disregard for democracy?) Consider three responses to: "Did you vote regularly when you were free?"')

Gambling syndicate underling (age 33, serving 5-10): "The organization always saw to it that I voted; even told me who and what to vote for."

Alcoholic (age 47, doing 1-2 for non-support): "They'd let me off work in time to make it to the polls, all right. But I'd stop at a buddy's house to talk the election over. There'd be a bottle or two around. And somehow, before I considered all the issues and candidates and decided who'd get my vote, it was either too late or I was too loaded to care anymore."

Sex offender (age 29, serving 1½-10 years): "I never bothered to vote except in presidential elections. I voted for Richard Nixon because my name is Nixon, too." (Wouldn't it be interesting to know how many other votes are cast for similar, lackadaisical reasons?)

As for me - well, sometimes it is unpleasant to face the mirror of patriotism. Instead of voting I have gone hunting and fishing and attended to personal matters of assorted kinds. But my future, back home in Manitoba, will offer opportunities to prove my determination never again to skip a chance to vote. And I will vote as intelligently as I can.

In the meantime, what about you?

Like many other sheer blessings in our full-fashioned freedom, the privilege of voting just can't completely be appreciated until it is lost. I know. So I must agree with the immigrant who said: "It is difficult for most Canadians to adequately appreciate their system of government because they don't understand what it is not."

However, our beautiful Maple Leaf Forever waves best when every thread is intact. Similarly, the government that this flag represents needs every one.

But nobody votes in my town. Nobody may.

What could be worse, patriotically?

Your town, where every adult Canadian may vote...and you don't.

Break Through

An ex-offender publication serving offenders, ex-offenders and citizens at large, dedicated to penal reform and the education of the public.

Published quarterly at the Break Through editorial office, 228 Bay St. South, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

BREAK THROUGH TEAM
Ron Osmachenko, Gord Vincent
Ken Langley, Keith Fairbank,
Earl Henderson

The Cure

by Doris L.

When I first met my husband, he had been a member of Alcoholics Anonymous and attending meetings, regularly. Along with an earlier attempt at an A.A. program he claimed forty months sobriety of a drinking history that began when he was fourteen (nineteen years ago).

Shortly after our marriage, unemployment and his added responsibilities attributed to his return to the bottle. Several times he came home, having made purchases for which I knew we did not have the ready cash or the credit rating to negotiate, explaining that he had been dealing in Automobiles. His stories were always convincing enough and seemingly logical, but my suspicions were confirmed on December 13 when he was arrested for fraud.

As the trial progressed and the multitude of charges were read it became apparent that there was no hope for probation. The question was how much time would he get? During his month and a half of remands, he learned about a Clinic that offered "A Cure" for problem drinkers.

I thought it would help him if he went to the Clinic knowing he had a drinking problem and other problems of an emotional nature. He had problems within him that he had to discover and cope with for himself. The more I thought about the idea the more I thought it would help him, at least try to get over his problems.

Towards the end of January, he was sentenced to nine months. At the time of sentencing, the judge recommended going to the Alex G.Brown Memorial Clinic for the last ninety days of his sentence.

When he reached Burtch Industrial Farm, he inquired about the Clinic, but soon discovered very little was known about the Clinic. He heard various conflicting stories about the Clinic from the other inmates who had been to the Clinic. He was interviewed by a psychologist and then tested. He appeared before the board. At the end of the session with the board, they recommended that he go to the Clinic for help.

He was scheduled as a long-term patient (over ninety days) to leave the end of April. He was then given the "runaround" because of an operation.

He found out after his operation that he was not going until the end of May. Then he was told he would be going the 16th day of June. He was finally transferrred to the Clinic on the 16th of June.

I was disgusted because I figured it would be of more benefit to him to be at the Clinic than at Burtch. It was during this waiting period, we had difficulty in receiving mail... This lack of communication created many doubts and much confusion for both of us. Only those in an institution or their loved ones really know how long censorship delays mail. My husband's letters took an average of five days to travel twenty-five miles. Our discussion on our Sunday visits were generally topics of letters written during the previous week and during the following week, I would receive these letters as a reminder of the things we had discussed on Sunday. I thought, as did my husband, that the delaying tactics and evasive actions of the staff at Burtch and Queen's Park were without reason and that a lot of valuable time was wasted at Burtch. This became even more apparent towards the end of his stay at the Clinic.

Finally the day came when I knew I would be going to see my husband at the A.G.B. Clinic. My feelings were mixed. My first feeling was of nervousness. I was nervous about going to the new place and getting lost, since no one at Burtch or the Barton Street Jail knew the location of the Clinic. The only ones who knew where the Clinic was were the bus drivers in Toronto and the patients, their wives and therapists. I was curious as to what my husband's new surroundings looked like. I was surprised when I saw the Clinic. The Clinic wasn't as I had pictured it.

My first impression of the Clinic was it was better than Burtch. The visiting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You can visit all day except lunch and dinner hours. At Burtch, the visiting hours are 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. for one hour only. At the Clinic, you are allowed as many visits as you like.

At Burtch, you are only allowed one visit a week. At the Clinic, you can't visit during the day (because of sessions) but you can visit in the evenings. At Burtch, you can't visit during the evenings but you can during the day. At the Clinic, there are non-supervised outdoor and indoor visits. At Burtch, the visits are supervised and indoors only. Family gatherings are encouraged at the Clinic. They do not allow children between the ages five and fourteen. Wives and family are encouraged to go to the A.A. meetings on Sunday at the Clinic.

They are not allowed to go to the A.A. meetings at Burtch. The patients and staff are a lot friendlier and courteous than at Burtch. The mail moved faster even from a greater distance at the Clinic. At Burtch, the mail was slow, because of censorship.

During the month and a half, my husband was at the Clinic, I could see a change in him. After he got out of the Clinic, he was a new man. He was enthusiastic. He didn't want to sit and do nothing, he wanted to be working and earning a living to support the two of us.

Life is much pleasanter for us now. His enthusiasm is very infectious and his attitudes so much different. Living with an Alcoholic can be pretty difficult at times, he is changing slowly, day by day. Not the man I fell in love with, but a man I can love and respect more!

What's Happening? Inside and Out

Due to the resignation of Les Ironside, this column now has a new Author. Although I do not possess the skills and the way of words Les has, I shall do the best I can to relate the information I receive from you the reader - the "con", "ex-con" or the square-John. After all - we're all in this together aren't we?

Please disregard any previous addresses you may have and write to Editorial Dept. - 228 Bay St. South Hamilton, Ont. Canada. I am looking forward to hearing from everyone particularly the people in joints and the people that are just re-adjusting to "the street". I myself am in that fascinating state of re-adjusting, as I was released from the A.G.B.M.C. on August 9th.

Things are working out - too - A bit of hard work and help has been of benefit for me! I am superintendent in an Apartment Bldg., I have my wife and a job. So I am quite busy, but content. At least I'm not paranoid, now when someone knocks on the door - and let's here from other people who are doing it!

I am happy to remind those of you who know, and those of you who don't that the Elizabeth Fry Society is now in Hamilton at 228 Bay St. South, yes! same place as the John Howard - think that's really to-getherness!

Can't quite believe the latest news of suffles in the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services. A News Release of July 19:

Glenn Thompson has been appointed to the position of Assistant Deputy Minister - Yeah!

H. Sanaway to Exec. Director of Adult Programs - don't know him.

Dr. H.C. Hutchison to co-ordinator of Treatment and Training - sounds good!

There is quite an impressive list of personnel changes, looks like 23 changes and - the system has been unshuffled - I don't know why or how many times this has to happen - but this time I have to tip the hat to Mr. Apps. It's partly obvious he does know what's going on in his Department and it looks like Mr. Epps picked the right men for the proper jobs this time - the system is slowly changing! I'm glad - but I sure don't want to try it again myself.

There's an Article in this issue about the Alex C. Brown Memorial Clinic, written by the wife of a former patient. Those who are interested might find this informative - especially anyone who may be asked questions about the "Clinic".

Soon the "Clinic" moves to it's New location in Brampton - near the Vanier - I understand - the new facilities at Burtch are now in use - four new buildings - less communication between the guys - and from what I've heard quite different to adapt to! I saw them - they're modern all right - a little too modern - Also I understood Millbrook no longer uses their electric doors. So I guess Burtch is an oaty. There are many definite advantages in the buildings, the old ones stopped the cold winds of winter last year - but not soon enough - recall sleeping in my clothes under extra blankets. Next a new mess hall and kitchen? Mr. Apps? No further comment on that subject! . Rumours are that a new facility is being planned to replace the Mimico Reformatory! Kind a wish Mr. Apps would make his long time plans known. He is without a doubt the best administrator the Dept. has had in many many years!

School is back, so of course, the Dept. of Education is beginning to show it's "saw fingers". I only hope they don't shove Mr. Apps over to that dept. There also both about a 12 month semester in Public schools. The system here is changing too!

Mr. Sinclair, also a very capable administrator will I am sure be remembered by many people for many years to come. He is the man who launched and guided the Mental Health public relations campaign. I remember a time when people in mental hospitals were forgotten about, sometimes for a long time. Mr. Sinclair is also very much enthused about such programs as T.L.A's Day Paroles and Paroles. We are fortunate to have him and I'm sure he is a dedicated man. I met him - and was impressed.

Election year, Oh! Those of you who can - get out and vote - your vote is your voice and that is the way we can change any parts of the establishment we don't like. I feel better if I at least try. I quit gripping about crooked politicians cuz I know if I was there I'd do it too. Difference is only that I got caught...

We must fight Drug abuse

These are not easy words for me to write. Most of my life I have walked on the sunny side of the street.

Then my job was to bring hatred into peoples lives.

But now I have a message to give to speed freaks or any other kind of freak everywhere.

It has to do with drugs and drug abuse, with grief and pain and madness and maybe even death.

Some months have passed now, since I had panic and despair, that was from speed.

The disbelief, the shock, the numbness is probably still with my mother and relatives of the first thought of me with speed.

This is what I must say to anyone who will listen.

Drug abuse has become an epidemic of monsterous proportions. Ten years ago if you were an average teenager or parent you were almost immune to the fact that people abuse drugs. The problem existed, but it was far away in the ghettos and slums, in the twilight criminal world. Even five years ago it seemed remote.

Not anymore, today the shadow of the tragedy that struck us, booms over many families, regardless of education level, wealth or position, regardless of everything.

If you have a son or daughter in college, highschool or even elmentary school, its no longer a question of their possible exposure to illicit drugs.

Someday even now they are being exposed to drugs. To assume otherwise is wishful thinking, its blindness I know this, Hamilton where I live has a large rise in juvenile drug arrests, especially concerning marijuana during 1970-1971.

I don't know of any high school free of the drug problem. I am no expert on drugs or drug abuse. In the area of law enforcement, rehabilitation, I can contribute nothing.

I decided if I could wake some people up, shock them into awareness and action. Sooner or later in society your child is going to be offered illegal drugs most likely by a member of his own group.

Your child will be urged to try glue sniffing, teased by a crowd if he doesn't, even diet pills, sleeping pills taken from some medicine cabinet.

Getting a little high is the "in thing" to do, its harmless they will be told. But death could be near.

If you child comes to you and admits that he has experimented with drugs, don't over react with horror. Be thankful that he is telling you, it is a sign that he is asking for help, for him.

I got help and it still wasn't too late for me. But I know many more young people still need help.

The hour is late but not too late we still can win the drug battle.

God help us if we can't.

Wayne H.

You are a casualty of crime

Your home may never have been looted. YOU may never have felt the cold reality of a gun in your ribs. Yet in a very real sense YOU ARE A CASUALTY OF CRIME!

YOU pay for the added police protection. YOU pay the court costs. YOU pay for the process of punishment. Yes, it costs YOU money to put a man in prison and keep him there!...and yet the crime rate rises, and taxes soar!

FEAR cannot be translated into dollars and cents. FEAR that you may be the next victim in a crime-ridden city. FEAR of the mushroom growth of thrill seeking gangs whose allure may reach out to your own youngster. Still, it makes TWO to make a crime. The criminal plays the ACTIVE part, but your passiveness fosters his lawlessness. YOUR PASSIVENESS denies the released prisoner the guidance he needs to bridge the gap between prison and a useful life. YOUR PASSIVENESS condones the unsympathetic attitude of the hostile world - a world which looks at the released prisoner as already guilty of another crime---With one hand You pay the cost of crime. With the other you contribute to its upkeep--a vicious circle---broken only by a realistic approach and decisive action. 95 out of every 100 men who are now in prision will some day be released---released to form the nucleus for further crime, UNLESS YOU HELP THEM FIND AN ALTERNATIVE.

They NEED help in finding a job - dignity which comes from work well done can build the solid structure of a worthwhile life. THEY NEED the encouragement that comes from an enlightened attitude---if you want a man to be a worthwhile citizen, you've got to treat him like one.

Extracted from a poster adorning the Bulletin board of John Howard in Hamilton

PENAL SYSTEM RAPPED

Group aims to help convicts' families

By ROSE MARIE EARLE

Love is . . . working with the wives and children of convicts.

Society punishes the criminal and compensates his victims but forgets about his wife and family, the St. Leonard's Society of Waterloo County believes.

The society is attempting to fill this gap with love.

"We'll help them with anything they need," said Mrs. Carol Verdun, who has been organizing the program on a volunteer basis for almost a month.

This week she became the second full-time employee of the society, which opened an office at 824 King St. W. March 1.

* * *

Her position with the society backs up her contention that St. Leonard's isn't just for men although traditionally it has worked at helping male ex-convicts re-establish themselves in society.

Helping their families includes arranging transportation and accommodation for wives to visit convicts in Kingston or Guelph, going with them to the welfare department or finding a babysitter.

The family of a convict may be ashamed to face the neighbors. Wives and children often feel isolated from the rest of society.

Mrs. Verdun said the incidence of marriage breakdown and juvenile delinquency increases drastically in the families of convicts.

The program also extends to women who are going into or just coming out of prison.

* * *

Mrs. Verdun hopes to get wives meeting together to discuss their common problems and lend each other support.

She is attempting to build up a library of information for the women — everything and anything that might be of interest to wives of convicts. And she is compiling a booklet of services for them — including information on national and provincial parole laws and legal aid.

Mrs. Verdun comes to her job from the K-W Social Planning Council.

She authored a series of 12 articles on reformatory life recently after she spent two days at the Ontario Reformatory in Guelph.

She describes the experience as "scarey."

She had two main reactions. Older guards still stress the punishment, no-nonsense approach to prisoner treatment while the younger ones seem to be trying to rehabilitate prisoners.

Her other reaction is that prison jobs don't go far enough. "Kids who think they'll learn a trade there are wrong."

In the woodworking shop they only learn how to make picnic tables for the Ontario government and the tailor shop teaches them to finish off sheets, pillowcases and mattress covers, she said.

Mrs. Verdun doesn't believe in prison. "That's my own opinion," she stressed.

She said the penal system hasn't gone far enough into why crimes are committed.

"Rehabilitation isn't working the way it is run now," she said. About 80 per cent of convicts in Canada return to prison again and again and it reaches as high as 90 per cent in this area, she said.

* * *

She supports a system that would keep the criminal in society, either in his own community or another one.

Give the thief a useful job and let him pay off whomever he robbed, she said.

It costs $10,400 a year for each prisoner. It would also keep his family off the welfare rolls.

Locking up a murderer does nothing but make him bitter, she contends, although she hasn't worked out all the fine points of keeping him in society.

Her main problem now is letting people know that this service for convicts' families is available. She is speaking to lawyers hoping for referrals and has spoken to several women's groups.

As well as referrals she is also looking for suitable volunteers as drivers and babysitters.

Job Hunting?

HERE'S SOME TIPS CONDENSED FROM 'EMPLOYMENT WAITS FOR YOU'
ORIGINAL BY: DAVE KENNEDY CONDENSED BY: GORD V.

WHERE TO SEARCH

There are many effective ways of looking for work. It is not a matter of having an appointment with Mr. J...next week. A person must look for work while he is waiting for this interview. If he should find work, then he should phone Mr. J...informing him that he is no longer available.

A great majority of people realize only one or two channels of Job Hunting, and for the benefit of these people and others, I have listed seven different ways.

(1) NEWSPAPERS - HELP WANTED

All major dailies have a help wanted male-female column which no unemployed person should neglect. It is an effective means of knowing who is looking for what and where. This help wanted column is found easily in the newspapers.

(2) CANADA MANPOWER CENTRE

This employment centre is located centrally in any city. They will assist one in finding employment. The individual's personal data and work skills will be taken and put on file. When employment suited to his capability is found he is advised of the opening.

(3) YELLOW PAGES

This may seem slightly odd to a person. The yellow pages is another channel of Job Hunting. For example; a qualified welder could phone all welding firms in the city by consulting the yellow pages. Should one of these firms have an opening, he would then ask for a personal interview. The same pattern is followed whether the individual is a mechanic or a shoe-shiner.

PERSONNEL OFFICES

This involves a person completing a job application form at the employment offices of large industries throughout the city. If you don't know of any large industries, ask someone who knows where they are located.

(5) PRIVATE TEMPORARY AGENCIES

Many private temporary employment agenices are a good source for casual work. It is not advisable to be employed steadily for them as they have a surcharge which you pay.

(6) PRIVATE PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

Private permanent employment agenices are worthwhile re-searching. These agencies do not charge the applicant any amount of money for the service. They list his or her name, address and capability for future references. When an employer calls, the applicant's file is checked. If he or she is suited for the job, he or she is advised of the employment found for him. This is of no charge to the person as the employer is billed for the service.

(7) UNIONS

Unions are an excellent source for employment. There are union offices in every city that could provide a person with work information. A person could be skilled yet not have his union card. Even so, he or she should not stop there but make arrangements concerning his dues.

GOOD TIPS

(1) Suitable clothing.
(2) Clean-shaven and normal hair length.
(3) Speaking easy - not in a uninteresting tone.
(4) Sitting in a proper position.

REMEMBER, MOST OF ALL, BE HONEST. THE RIGHT APPROACH IS A MAJOR FACTOR.

Eleven steps to delinquency

by
Dr. Walter C. Alvare
(re-published from the Hamilton Spectator)

Some time ago I read that the men in the police department of Houston, Texas, have prepared the following 11 rules for parents who would like to get a delinquent child in their family.

1.) Begin in infancy to give him everything he wants. Let him grow up believing that the world owes him a living.

2.) When he begins to curse and say dirty words, laugh so that he will think he is cute.

3.) Never talk to him about idealism, and what is right and wrong to do to one's neighbour; never give him ideas of being careful of other people's property; and never teach him to be always kind and thoughtful for the welfare and happiness of others.

4.) Avoid the use of the word "wrong" so that the child will never have a guilt complex; then, later when he is arrested for stealing his first car, he will feel that society is against him, and he is being persecuted.

5.) Pick up everything for him that he leaves lying around, so that he will be taught to throw all responsibility on others.

6.) Quarrel frequently in his presence.

7) Give him all the spending money he wants, and never let him have the joy of earning any of his own.

8.) See that his every sensual desire is gratified, because, according to some psychiatrists, denial might lead to feelings of frustration.

9.) When he commits his first crime, take his part against the neighbours, his teachers and the policeman.

10.) When he gets into real trouble say, "I never could do anything with him."

11.) Prepare for a life of grief, because you are likely to get it.

Parents Take Care!

By Gordon V.

Parents take care! Those little children of yours could be heading in the wrong direction. Keep an eye on them, listen closely to whatever they may say and how they say it.

Undoubtingly, it seems hardly anyone has consideration for authority, to obey it or to enforce it. This is our modern day society, advancing so rapidly it tends to leave its rules and regulations far behind. One of the fast disappearing rules is to have respect for other people. At one time it was generally taught to a kid from day one and upwards. Everyone seems to be forgetting to properly tutor their children. Could it be, parents can not care less? Has the world's population increased so greatly that parents think their unmannerly children will go by unnoticed? Parents should take adequate time each night with their youngsters to learn what they are doing. Sufficient love and affection will bring out the truth in a child then if any wrong had been done, you can start correcting. If this precaution can't be taken, someday a policeman could be bringing your precious one home.

Recently, I encountered three youths in a distant village. As I passed slowly, the oldest youth heaved a fair sized rock at the car. The offence in itself was a minor form of vandalism. If allowed to pass without concern it could have led the youth to a greater degree of vandalism or even serious criminal offences. I stopped to talk to him.

A friend of mine once mentioned he wouldn't go back to a certain friend's home. Asking him why, he explained, "I like kids but when they begin to insult visitors then it's time to leave." By his statement I could reason that the parents had not instructed their youngsters regarding respect for others.

Do you love your children enough to discipline them?

TO ONE NO LONGER CAGED

To sit here, watching mourners at your funeral,
Who will rise again and wing into the open skies,
And know that we denied this freedom to you,
Brings a mist of tears to blind my eyes.
Beneath crape myrtle roots we have interred you,
And spread forsaken seed upon the ground,
That other, freer birds might share this moment—
See, the thick cortege of sparrows on your mind!
Could you have known my depth of caring for you,
Or how still this room without your chirping word?—
A severed bond between imprisoned spirits
Leaves me feeling loss of something more than bird.
There below a tree we love, green songster,
May earthly form be one with dust, and then
Return to us in summer's petaled beauty
To waft your note of happiness again.
But grant me on some far or near tomorrow,
When, fleeing bars, I mingle flesh with flowers,
That some ethereal corner hold your presence,
Little friend of all my darkest hours.

M.M.T.
(Telescope)
Kingston Penitentiary

AND IS THERE ANYONE AT ALL?

And is
There anyone at all?
I am knocking at the oaken door . . .
And will it open
Never now no more?
I am calling, calling to you
Don't you hear?
And is there anyone

Near?
And does this empty silence have to be?
And is there no-one there at all
To answer me?
I do not know the road —
I fear to fall
And is there anyone
At all?

Anonymous

ARTICLES REQUESTED

Break Through solicits articles relating to penal and allied subjects or dealing with sociological problems of ex-inmates

Photographs Needed

Break Through would be interested in receiving current photographs of Canadian penal insitutions dealing with community relations programs and other Social activities which would be suitable for publication. Please send to BREAK THROUGH, Editorial Office, 228 Bay St. South Hamilton, Ontario.

A PARDON

It's fine if you need a pyschological boost, but if you're hoping for a fresh start, just forget it

By PAUL KIDD
Spectator Staff

A pardon.

An official forgiving of past sins.

You wouldn't want to hang it on your wall, but if you had one you would consider it a valuable possession, carrying the prestige of a college diploma and the opportunity for a fresh start.

And you would be wrong.

Its only apparent benefits are the opportunity to cheat your way into the U.S. and perhaps a psychological uplift.

Bearing the seal of the Registrar General of Canada, a pardon records that a criminal conviction should no longer "reflect adversely" on a person's character.

In the constitutional language of the Crown, the pardon "vacates the convictions in respect of which it is granted and . . . removes any disqualification to which the said (recipient) is, by reason of such convictions, subject by virtue of any Act of Parliament of Canada . . ."

And these convictions do not have to entail a jail sentence.

For instance, simply refusing to blow into a breathilizer gives a person a criminal record.

Burlington lawyer Thomas Sutherland, a long-time advocate of criminal record reform, asserts that a person who refuses to blow shouldn't be classed as a criminal.

In his view, such an offence is more of a misdemeanor, and he urges the adoption of a second classification to include this type of offence.

"But what, in fact, does "forgiveness" for a criminal act mean?

Arthur Kloepfer, district representative of the National Parole Service, bluntly terms the pardon "a misnomer."

Right direction

At the same time, he concedes that it is "a step in the right direction, even if it is only a baby step."

His point is well made, for the Criminal Records Act, which authorizes the conditions for granting a pardon, is distinctly ambivalent.

While protecting and aiding a convicted person at the distant federal level, the act appears to have little value locally and provincially.

- Hamilton police continue to retain records of criminal convictions, which they can use in evidence against a person or for any other purpose.

True, the records of pardoned persons are specially noted, but they are not expunged.

For the granting of a pardon does not erase a conviction.

- If a witness in court is asked if he or she has a criminal record, he or she must answer in the affirmative, if such is the case, regardless of whether the witness has been pardoned.

- The pardoned person is not able to deny having a criminal record, should he or she be asked the question by an employer or bonding company.

Yet despite these shortcomings, applications for pardons have been steadily increasing until last year and now average 115 a month.

What, then, is the object in seeking a pardon?

If a person with a criminal record is pardoned, his or her record is sealed off by all federal departments.

This means that at Royal Canadian Mounted Police headquarters in Ottawa, which is the central criminal records repository, a pardoned person's record is sealed and separated from other records and can only be disclosed with the approval of the solicitor-general.

A specific way in which this could possibly assist a convicted person concerns an application for a visa to a foreign country, notably the United States.

Application

According to an official of the American Consulate-General in Toronto, the U.S. visa application form asks whether a person has ever been arrested, convicted or confined to prison.

The form also asks the applicant whether he or she has ever been the beneficiary of a pardon, amnesty, "rehabilitation decree or other act of clemency or similar action."

Under U.S. immigration laws, the applicant is required to disclose any criminal convictions. If they are considered to "contain a significant degree of moral turpitude," such as for acts of violence, the convictions will make the applicant ineligible for residency in the United States.

The American authorities are concerned with the moral character of the applicant — and judgment is based on the original offence rather than on any subsequent pardon.

However, the task of the U.S. immigration officers could be made much more difficult as a result of the two-year- Canadian Criminal Records Act.

About 800 persons each month apply for U.S. immigrant visas through the consulate-general in Toronto. But so far, according to sources there, no one with a Canadian pardon has applied.

"To my knowledge, there has not been a case with a pardon," said one consulate officer.

However, it could still have happened — and someone with a normally prohibitive criminal record could have slipped through the immigration authorities' screen.

Here's how: The U.S. authorities require every applicant to produce a police certificate from the RCMP showing that he or she has no criminal record. If a person has received a pardon, the applicant's set of fingerprints will be returned with a "no record" stamp from RCMP headquarters.

Supported by such a certificate, the applicant could subsequently untruthfully deny ever having had a conviction or pardon.

The U.S. authorities have various ways of checking a person's background and they could conceivably detect the lie either before or after granting a visa. Such a lie is grounds for deportation from the United States.

The U.S. authorities are now understood to be planning closer police checks on visa applications.

594 pardons

As the consulate official noted: "So far as we are concerned, the pardon does not erase a crime from a person's blotter and it does not in itself have any effect on what we consider good character."

Since the Criminal Records Act was introduced in June, 1970, 2,347 persons have applied for pardons.

During that time, 594 pardons have been granted and 61 denied.

It takes an average of eight months to process a case and 1,367 applications are under investigation.

The remaining 325 cases were ruled ineligible because they either came under provincial statutes, instead of the Criminal Code, or because application had been made within the required two-year or five-year waiting period since completion of sentence.

Reasons for refusing a pardon vary, but common ones are when investigation discloses a man to have been associating with persons with bad criminal backgrounds or to have committed a subsequent crime.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police do the investigating for the National Parole Board. The board then makes a pardon recommendation, or otherwise, to the solicitor-general and the granting is done by the cabinet.

Sergeant Douglas Elmquist, of the RCMP detachment in Hamilton, stresses that in parole investigations, "the key word is discretion."

RCMP officers never tell persons why they are making inquiries about an applicant for a pardon — and thus his criminal background hopefully remains concealed.

As Sergeant Elmquist explains, the RCMP make the same type of inquiries for a number of reasons, ranging from security clearance purposes to checks on persons applying to join the force.

"We must always use discretion," he says.

A spokesman for the National Parole Board said that the Criminal Records Act would probably soon be coming up for review now that it has had a two-year run.

Many one-time offenders, who have been trying to forget and erase the past by leading law-abiding lives, hope that such a review will result in pardons being granted with much less risk of exposure.

For as one man said: "If they won't let me make an honest living, I sure as hell know how to make a dishonest one."

A person may apply for a pardon two years after the termination of sentence for a summary conviction or — more commonly — after five years in the case of an indictable offence.

The grant of a pardon is evidence that the parole board, after making proper inquiries, is satisfied that an applicant has been of good behaviour since the completion of sentence.

An officer at RCMP headquarters said that, once a person has been granted a pardon, his or her criminal record at federal level will not be disclosed "no matter who calls or why they call" unless permission for such disclosure has been granted by the solicitor-general.

The minister must first be satisfied that such disclosure is "desirable in the interests of the administration of justice" or for national security reasons.

Meanwhile, a pardoned person's record remains a ready document — if necessary — in the files of municipal and provincial police forces and of local credit bureaus and credit reporting agencies.

Deputy Chief Gordon Torrance, of the Hamilton Police Department, says that a pardoned person's record is stamped accordingly. But it remains in the police files.

Retail credit agencies accumulate criminal records on persons through daily gleaning of local newspapers and from other sources.

Thus, a person may obtain a pardon, but his original conviction record will remain untouched in credit agency files.

There is a big distinction between the Credit Bureau of Hamilton, which is a recording agency of consumers' credit ratings, and the Retail Credit Company, a mammoth American corporation with 500 Canadian-based private investigators who handle cases for insurance companies.

Officials of both agencies say that they retain records of persons' criminal convictions for seven years.

Stephen Thompson, manager of the Credit Bureau of Hamilton, maintains that if criminal records are locked up and the information is not available, "the man who suffers is the man who has the least to hide."

For, he says, there is then "no reward" for the person who has led an honest life.

But Keith Fairbank, executive secretary of the John Howard Society of Hamilton, contends that the Criminal Records Act doesn't go far enough.

Clean slate

He would like to see a person's criminal record expunged altogether if the offender goes straight for seven years after the completion of a sentence.

"Make it a real pardon," he says.

Statistics show that 99.4 per cent of offenders who go straight for five years never again record a criminal conviction.

Further, 94 per cent of offenders who stay out of trouble for two years keep an equally clean slate for the remainder of their lives.

Mr. Fairbank would like to see the current type of pardon given to all applicants who keep on the right side of the law for two years after the completion of sentence, with the automatic total expunging of records five years later.

"This will give guys the break and incentive they need," he declares.

As things stand, Mr. Fairbank says that although the Criminal Records Act is a first step, "it doesn't do very much."

In his view, the existing type of pardon doesn't take away the difficulties frequently encountered by a former offender now going straight in obtaining credit, life insurance and mortgages.

Although credit agencies claim they destroy criminal records after seven years, Mr. Fairbank cited the case of a man who was refused credit on the basis of a 15-year-old car theft case — a case that had resulted in the man's acquittal.

Investigation by the John Howard Society disclosed that the credit bureau had filed a clipping of the initial court hearing, but that it had not recorded the man's subsequent acquittal.

However, credit agencies continue to insist that they do destroy records and that no case will be used against a person without making note of the eventual outcome of the hearing.

Mr. Fairbank says that it is not impossible for a person with a criminal record to get life insurance, but it is difficult.

"The fact is that the pardon just isn't recognized," he declares. "All it does is affect police records — and only those of the RCMP. And they are not the records the former offenders are worried about."

There should be more control on credit companies to protect the individual, says Mr. Fairbank.

The Retail Credit Company, among other things, does personnel and employment investigations for firms.

Should it be revealed that a person in line for promotion or applying for a job had a criminal record, continued Mr. Fairbank, he could use his subsequent pardon as a "point of argument" and explanation.

The John Howard Society official said that the question of a criminal record arose in a lot of employment and bonding applications.

Persons who had lived law-abiding lives for perhaps 15 years became "frightened" when the possibility of being bonded arose.

Mr. Fairbank cited the possibility of an investigation agency, in conducting a scrutiny of a person for bonding purposes, finding out that the man or woman had a criminal record.

He said that this information could be reported to the man's employer.

"It's from private files that such information is obtained — and those are the files that a pardon doesn't touch," pointed out Mr. Fairbank.

He contends that the existence of such files "doesn't allow a man to move away from his criminal record and the stigma and shame of it."

What Mr. Fairbank would like to see is a system of notifying all credit agencies when a person's pardon is issued, and heavily fining any agency which does not promptly destroy the criminal record.

But David Smith, manager of the Hamilton office of the Royal Insurance Group, asserted that an insurance company would never disclose to an employer that it had discovered, that, as a result of investigation, a man or woman had a criminal record.

He released the case of a Hamilton man with a criminal record who was going to become treasurer of a company and had to be bonded.

The man confided in his local agent and, after it was established that the one-time offender had an otherwise excellent background, a bond was issued.

Mr. Smith said that there was "a very good chance" for someone to get bonded if he or she were making a real effort to go straight.

Most bonds issued in Hamilton range from $2,500 to $5,000 — with the average annual premium about $20 — for such persons as real estate brokers, used car dealers and door-to-door salesmen.

Bonding, which can reach much higher amounts for important company officers, is insurance on a person's or company's integrity and insurance against dishonesty.

Mr. Smith noted that the John Howard Society had an agreement with insurance companies to provide bonds for rehabilitated offenders.

Mr. Fairbank agreed that the society helped former offenders get bonds. But he stressed that there was a special process which had to be followed, which not all persons with records knew about. With John Howard Society backing, a former offender had an 85 per cent chance of getting bonded.

Referrals

Mr. Fairbank said that a number of persons with records had inquired at the society's Bay Street South office about getting pardons.

"Some say 'thank you', and we never hear from them again," said Mr. Fairbank. "Many people are dead scared of anyone finding out about their pasts. In some cases, even their wives don't know."

The society was currently referring pardon applicants to the National Parole Service office on Main Street West.

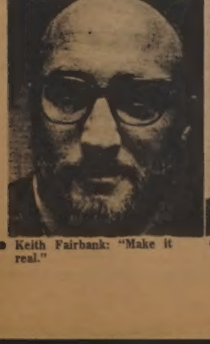
Parole service representative Arthur Kloepfer agrees that persons are petrified that an RCMP investigation may "let the cat out of the bag — a cat that has been sealed in the bag for 20 years."

Mr. Kloepfer cited the case of one man, who had stolen a car as a teenager and has subsequently kept his criminal record a secret from his wife and children, students at McMaster University. Fearing that the record might be revealed, he had repeatedly turned down promotions and had thus kept his current job safe.

Yet despite all the shortcomings of the current Criminal Records Act, Mr. Kloepfer says that a lot of persons seek pardons for psychological reasons.

"To some, getting a pardon is almost like receiving a papal benediction," he explains. "Receiving forgiveness from the powers-that-be often evokes the reaction: 'My God, I made it'."

Perhaps, but it probably won't help them get a loan.



● Keith Fairbank: "Make it real."

● Arthur Kloepfer: "A misnomer."

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR
SEPT. 18, 1972

Inmates Launch Gavel Club

On June 8, 1972, the Constitution and Bylaw of the WILLIAM HEAD GAVEL CLUB were filed. This act brought to fruition weeks of planning and discussion by a group of inmates who, in the words of the club President, "believe that being a federal prisoner doesn't automatically exempt a man from the responsibility of doing what he can to improve himself."

With Toastmasters International area Governor, Frank Leask as co-ordinator, William Head Gavel Club operates under the guidance and sponsorship of THUNDERBIRD TOASTMASTERS of Victoria. Thunderbird members attend regular meetings in the institution. Institution Director, G. Milner, himself a Toastmaster for eight years, acts as club Liaison Officer. The fledgling club will make formal application to Toastmasters International Headquarters at Santa Ana, California for a Gavel Club Charter.

Members have already begun the "learning by doing" teaching process offered through the Toastmasters basic training manual. Successful completion of the series of twelve speeches described as a "listening, thinking, speaking program" culminates in the award of a Certificate of Merit from International Headquarters. In conjunction with regular training sessions, an outside guest speakers night is planned. Leaders from various fields in the community will be invited to lecture the group.

Two keys to the new Gavel Club's philosophy are; to help its members improve their abilities to communicate effectively, and to afford leadership training. The Club motto epitomizes the underlying purpose; PRO BONO PUBLICO..."For the Public Good." In spirit, members look forward to participation in outside speaking contests.

William Head is believed to be the second penal institution Gavel Club in Canada. Correspondence is welcomed from any and all Gavel Clubs across Canada. Club mailing address is P. O. Box 10, Metchosin, B. C.

PEOPLE IN PRISON

In many ways a prison or borstal is a society in miniature providing for those in custody most of the essential facilities of living that the citizen enjoys outside. The original basic elements of the well-ordered Victorian gaol were food, shelter, clothing, exercise (of a sort), religious services and medical treatment. "Good order and discipline" were maintained by the separation of prisoners and the enforcement of the rule of silence. Mere incarceration was not thought punishment enough. As Wilde wrote in his Ballad of Reading Gaol;

"I know not whether laws be right
Or whether laws be wrong;
All that we know who lie in gaol
Is that the wall is strong.
And that each day is like a year.
A year whose days are long."

But now to the original basic elements are added work, access to books, opportunities for education, and opportunities for social life and recreation within the institution. As a result the prison society has become increasingly complex.

DISCIPLINE

The entire regime must rest on a foundation of discipline and good order. As with all societies a prison or borstal must have rules, and sanctions that can be imposed for breaches of them. But discipline depends far more on the attitudes of staff and of the offenders in their charge than it does upon sanctions. The relationships in the daily contacts between members of the prison service and offenders in custody are generally good. (A visitor whose image of a prison has been formed by the harshness of its Victorian buildings, and by grim tales of prison life, is very often surprised by the relaxed atmosphere he finds inside the wall.) In the last few years the uniformed officer has been encouraged to get to know and to concern himself with the treatment of those in custody, with the result that there has been a noticeable improvement in the atmosphere of our institutions. This process will continue. There will always be a small minority of offenders needing strict control and supervision and there are some offenders who, if given any opportunity to do so, will dominate the larger group of which they form a small part. For the majority of offenders no more restrictions need be inposed than are necessitated by the efficient performance of the task of the establishment within the limited space available, and by the maintenance of good order.

ASSOCIATION

The Gladstone Committee recommended in 1895 that "the privilege of talking might be given after a certain period as a reward for good conduct on certain days for a limited time." The difference between this cautious recommendation and the present practice is one illustration of the change in the attitude of our prison system to the social life of people in custody. Restrictions on prisoners talking to each other have long since been abolished, and it is the Government's policy to allow them to associate with each other at work, at mealtimes and in the evenings. The fact that in our local prisons too many are locked in their cells for up to 18 hours out of the 24, and sometimes longer at the weekend, shows the extent to which progress is still hampered by Victorian buildings, designed for solitary confinement, and by shortages of staff. In many local prisons most prisoners have to eat in their cells, because there is no room for them to do so anywhere else, and spend the evening hours in their cells because of the lack of space for classes or other activities. (An evening, in prison, starts at 5 p.m.). At the other end of the spectrum is the purposely built training prison in which prisoners eat their meals together, and in which rooms are available where, in the evening, they can watch television, play table tennis or billiards, or talk. Between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. in these prisons a man does not have to be locked in his cell except for very brief periods. In this respect, the establishments for young offenders are at the same end of the spectrum as the training prison. The staff complement of all borstals and detention centres is designed to allow a full day's activities, including work, opportunity for sport and recreation and evening association.

OTHER PRIVILEGES

The reference in the quotation from the Gladstone Committee Report to the grant of "the privilege of talking...as a reward for good conduct" illustrates two other points. First, the way in which the privileges of one generation become the accepted practice of the next-library books, for example, are no longer a privilege to be allowed only to some people; and, secondly, the use of privileges as rewards for good conduct. There is certainly a place for the progressive grant of privileges if they entail greater responsibilities on the part of the inmate, and mark real prgress in his response to training. This is still one of the main features of the borstal system. But any graded system of privileges is liable to become automatic and bureaucratic. The Government decided in 1967 to abolish the gradation of minor privileges in prisons and those parts of the old "stage" system that still remained, and changed the emphasis by retaining and strengthening the power of the Governor to withdraw privileges, such as that of eating meals in association, from the minority who abuse them. One such development was that prisoners in cellular training prisons may now have personal radio sets.

John Howard visiting British Prisons in the seventeen hundreds.

Future shock and recidivism

From an address by G.C. Allison, President, Montreal Association for the Comprehension and Re-Orientation of Ex-Convicts Inc. to the Canadian Congress of Criminology and Corrections, Ottawa, 15 June, 1971.

"It has been observed that if the past 50,000 years of man's existence were divided into lifetimes of approximately 62 years each, there have been about 800 such lifetimes. Of these, fully 650 were spent in caves. Only during the past 70 lifetimes has it been possible to communicate effectively from one lifetime to another--as writing made it possible to do. Only during the past two has anyone used an electric motor. And the overwhelming majority of all the material goods we use in daily life have been developed within the present, the 800th lifetime."

That was a quote from Alvin Toffler, the originator of the term "future shock." Our present age, the 800th lifetime, may well be known as the age of shock, for environmental change has accelerated so much during this single lifetime that people are finding they cannot cope with change, and therefore, life.

Dr. Murray Banks, the psychiatrist, recently said that every year in the U.S. more people enter mental institutions than graduate from university, and some go directly from university to mental institutions.

It must be hell to be a Victorian-educated person in the seventies. As the late psychologist Abe Maslow put it so well, "It's as if the only tool they have is a hammer and they treat everything as if it were a nail."

I have asked many ex-inmates which was worse - going into prison for the first time or coming out...The answer was unanimous: coming out . . Going in they had no rear-view mirror of expectations. Coming out their anxiety was the difference between life in prison and what might be.

Toffler has defined future shock as "the dizzying disorientation of the individual brought on by the premature arrival of his future...Most travellers have the comforting knowledge that the culture they left behind will be there to return to. The victim of future shock does not."

I feel that statement is a classic description of the predicament facing a man leaving jail on parole or clear release.

I also want to make the point that future shock also very much affects the lives of employees of our prisons and their attitudes towards inmates.

I recall my very first visit to LeClerc Institute in April 1967, when I toured part of the institution in company with a man who was then holding a position about fourth down from the warden. The following is a verbatim account of our conversation:

I asked him, "How many men do you have in this prison?" He replied, "Mr. Allison, we only have about 400 at present. We usually have about 450-460, but of course you know that prison populations are falling right across Canada. We don't understand it." We are very concerned about it." This man was suffering from future shock. His life was concerned with irrelevancies, and the relevant future was bearing down upon him.

Future shock, then, can be spoken of in terms of degrees of shock occuring when the irrelevant is threatened or is annihilated by the relevant.

As a man who has been involved with inmates and ex-cons for about four years, I feel that much of what we are doing in our prison system is irrelevant. For me, it is relevant to keep a man out of jail.

I find it irrelevant that a man who has been sentenced to jail by society should be kept in a place of confinement and ruled by members of society to whom he cannot and dare not speak. I do not need to emphasize the great gulf between the inmates and the prison employees.

How can we expect a man who has served five or more years in isolation and alienation, loneliness and hopelessness and frustration to come back in society "rehabilitated?" What a Victorian term!...- The doors that lock men in prison are the same doors that lock out the people who care about men in prison. I'm not speaking about "do-gooders." The history of our penal system is filled with the names of competent people who became disenchanted with prison administrators and the system - and left.

The monotony and sensory deprivation of prison life can be permanently damaging to an inmate. Woodburn Heron, a McGill psychologist, wrote, "a changing sensory environment seems essential for human beings. Without it the brain ceases to function in an adequate way and abnormalities of behavior develop.

(Cont'd on Pg. 8)

REORGANIZATION OF ONTARIO CORRECTIONS

Correctional Minister C. J. Apps announced recently that rehabilitation programs for adults and juveniles will be completely separated.

He also announced with this separation, further emphasis will be placed on intensification and development of community orientated correctional programs.

Highlights of the organizational changes are as follows:

+ The consolidation of the existing administrative branches in the jails to one adult branch for female and male prisoners.

+ That the Ministry's operation will take in institutional care, probation, and aftercare services where at one time their operations excluded probation, which was under the Justice Department.

+ Probation and aftercare services will be united so that the adult offender and juvenile ward can have supervision at any point in the system. In this system there will be a constant liason with the individual whether he is on the street in reformatory or prison. Under this system the offender will also be provided with more support and supervision following his release.

Major steps involving the separation will ensure that either group, adult or juvenile, will be looked at as a whole with no further mixing of caseloads.

Mr. Apps stated that there would be a constant liason with each individual wards or adults. The same probation officer who looked after the offender would be responsible and continue liason with him once he is admitted to an institution and supervision with him when he is released into the community.

The demarcation between jails and correctional centres is rapidly disappearing. Three factors responsible for this are: the development of more meaningful programs within the jails, expansion opportunities resulting in the establishment of regional detention centres and the use of the Temporary Absence (TA) making it possible for the selected inmate to venture into the community to work or continue within his education.

Mr. Apps states that the TA program has been very successful. From the start of the program, August 26th, 1969 until June 30, 1972 there have been 9,005 TA's with only 169 or two per cent who failed to observe the conditions of the leave.

Mr. Harry Garraway, formerly the Administrator of Training Schools has been appointed as Executive Director of Adult Programs and will be responsible for the operation of institutions, probation and parole for adults.

Heading the Juvenile branch will be Mr. Douglas Penfold, former Executive Director Planning Division who will act in the capacity of Executive Director of Juvenile Programs.

Ministry of Correctional Services Buuilding Toronto.

THE KEEPER AND THE KEPT

It is yours to keep
And mine to be kept
And keep me you do
That is all except
My mind which
I know is mine
To serve me
And not my time
It goes thru this wall
Whenever I wish
No part is vulnerable
To your lock and key
For I am its master
And it serves only me.

(M.L.S.)

(Telescope — 1965)
Kingston Penitentiary

Newgate Resource Centre completes survey on Offender Education

In January, the NRC undertook a survey to determine the status of educational programs for 367 correctional institutions throughout the United States and Canada. Of 192 responding institutions, 88 offer inside post-secondary educational programs, 83 of which make provisions for degree work. Approximately two-thirds of the respondents indicated interest in upgrading their programs. Further details on the survey are available upon request.

Ohio enacts favorable legislation for offenders

The General Assembly of Ohio has passed legislation that will enable the Adult Parole Authority to grant furloughs to inmates of state correctional institutions and reformatories for educational programs, vocational training, or employment. For the first time in any state, the annual sum spent on the incarceration of one man will now be available for his education or training; the Authority may cover expenses up to, but not exceeding that amount.

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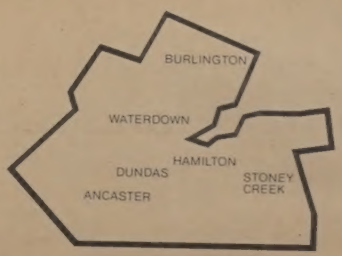
45% of the people in our area use United Appeal Service



	People Helped	Population
Ancaster	4,366	11,000
Burlington	30,872	86,125
Dundas	8,950	17,100
Hamilton	163,103	303,177
Stoney Creek	5,869	8,280
Waterdown	596	2,085
Wentworth County Twps.	4,923	53,471
Total	218,679	481,238

Support 43 community services through
Your United Appeal

43 ways to say "I care"

Support 43 community services through
Your United Appeal

Future shock and recidivism

(Cont'd from pg. 6)

I don't consider a man responsible for his actions after his release from prison. He is in a state of shock. Many men do not recover from this shock and simply return to prison.

As structures, most of our prisons are irrelevant. I find it incredible that a prison like the ancient St. Vincent de Paul is essentially duplicated by the special detention unit built almost next door within the last few years. The duplication I am referring to is the denial of contact and the consequent monotony and boredom resulting from lack of variety.

I am wryly amused that prison authorities get uptight about Kingston and Dorchester riots. Such riots are, in my view, predictable. What is surprising is that there are not more of them, but I think there will be in future.

It is irrelevant to spend millions and millions of dollars on a prison system that doesn't work. If we are going to make changes in the prison system and keep men out of jail, we need to change the employees by replacing them with those who believe in redundancy, and we need to hire architects who have never seen a prison before, and build the prisons near where people live and not in the bush.

It is irrelevant to build a new 450-man prison like LeClerc...that contains only two classrooms.

It is irrelevant to teach a man a trade while he is in prison but provide nothing by way of concurrent human relations courses so he can learn about himself and how to work with others. It is further irrelevant to teach a man certain trades who does not already have at least a grade nine education.

It is irrelevant to print on a parole ticket "thou shalt not" mix with other ex-cons after release when the prison system encourages lasting friendships to develop among inmates and almost zero opportunities for the inmates to form new relationships with anyone who has not served time. Besides, half-way houses are full of ex-cons mixing together.

It is irrelevant to design, build and administer prisons to provide super womb-like environmental support for the inmate (and the prison employee) and thereby diminish opportunities for him to transcend the environment to achieve the one essential attribute he will need to cope upon release in the seventies and beyond: self-support.

In closing, I would like to propose a crazy idea that just might work. Let's convert all our prisons into future-shock survival schools. And let's put the inmates and prison employees together in the same classrooms. They then can both learn how to stay out of prison.

JOHOSO

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Temporary absences curtailed

from Tar paper ~ Matsqui Institution

The temporary absence program at Matsqui Institution has been drastically curtailed by more than 90 per cent in the last few months. In addition, no new work-release or volunteer programs for inmates outside the institution will be considered until at least after the forthcoming federal election.

The cut-back has arisen chiefly from efforts of local politicians such as Liberal M.P. Jerry Pringle, who is seeking re-election in Fraser Valley East. In a telegram sent to Solicitor-General Goyer, Mr. Pringle, representing concern of civic authorities in Abbotsford, Sumas and Matsqui, called for temporary cancellation of all overnight passes. The latest curtailment was effected after a meeting of Mr. Pringle and the civic authorities with Doug McGregor, Acting Director of the Institution.

The Solicitor-General's telegram reply to Mr. Pringle said that the Regional Director (Western) would work with him in defining the problem and to "reassure the general public that adequate screening and supervision is being maintained."

Only a few months ago the program approved the absence every week of 60 to 70 residents under Section 26 of the Penitentiary Act: "for medical or humanitarian reason or to assist in the rehabilitation of the inmate."

The first cut-back of 50 per cent of all "TA's" came after the Busch tragedy, in which it is alleged than an inmate on temporary absence from another institution is involved.

The most recent restriction seems to result from an accumulation of incidents over the summer, culminating in the escape in late September of two long-term inmates, who were recaptured without incident after two days in nearby bush.

TARPAPER research reveals that during the three-month period of July 1 to September 30 this year, 13 inmates were found absent without leave on temporary absence. Three of those were absent only a few hours, five were gone for a few days, and five are still at large.

It is estimated that well over 2000 temporary absences were granted during this period.

There were nine escaped from the institution itself during this same period. Three other inmates were brought to court for offences committed, or alleged to have been committed, while on temporary absence.

Three of the escapees are still at large.

Hire an ex-inmate

Ex-inmates can be workers.

More often than not you will find they work harder than the average person without a criminal record since they have to prove themselves in a situation where no ordinary employee would do so.

With one mark against them ex-inmates want to give more of themselves to prove to any employer they can work honestly and fairly for their employers.

A large number of ex-inmates lack the work skills normally developed by a non record holding employee; but given the opportunity, through experience and a learning situation, their drive to succeed makes them good students and hopefully skilled and honest workers.

The ex-inmate knows a compatible work record with one company will go a long way towards keeping his job and eventually gaining more definite employment.

One thing an ex-inmate knows is that no matter how long he is on the street going straight he will always know he is on a trial basis for his entire working career.

Recently two ex-inmates were hired temporarily by a major oil company. The outcome was highly successful and quite a surprise to the company personnel manager.

In fact the personnel manager advanced the ex-inmates a large sum of money and if they fouled up the responsibility for re-payment to the company, it would come out of the manager's pocket.

"The boys did a fine job and I have no hesitation in recommending them to any future employers," he said in an interview.

Probation after prison

Probation was originally designed as an alternative to prison for the first offender. Along the way modifications have been made in the length of a probation sentence and in the number of times an individual may receive probation. The most recent innovation, Probation After Prison, is an outright misuse and abuse of the concept of probation. In Ontario, this practice is growing and probation caseloads have expanded to the point at which probation is a farce.

When probation was first inaugerated in Canada, someone, somewhere realized the extremely negative affects of prison on the offender and devised an alternative to prison. Those same negative affects are now part of probation.

Prisons, for decades have been over crowded and under staffed. The net result of this condition has been curt, to the letter of the law, brief, bitter relationships between inmate and staff, a condition which may augment the psychological punishment of the inmate, but certainly never reform him. Now the relationship between probationer and probation officer must, due to the impossible size of caseloads, take on the same "to the letter of the law," reporting.

When a citizen is sentenced to prison for the first time, he is considered "unfit" to remain in the community. In prison he meets often, for the first time, the other "unfit citizens" from his own community and is thrown into a situation which on the whole produces bitterness toward society and a sense of comradeship in a group opposed to society.

After prison, this ex-inmate probationer, now familiar with other ex-inmates in the community, and often carrying with him the bitter attitudes ingrained in prison, sits in the probation office waiting room with those "fit" citizens who were not sent to prison but granted probation. What influence will he have on them?

It would appear that the very system which was devised to prevent the association of the first offender with the more criminally involved third and fourth offender has now become their means of introduction.

Prison has always created a criminal subculture in the community, and probation has to a lesser extent created a probation subculture, but never before has society provided any official means of uniting the two groups.

Probation and Probation After Prison are contradictory in theory. What will be the results in practice.

K. Fairbank.

Prisons have failed

from WAPUN WORLD

The Dane County Mental Health Association was presented with a bleak but not hopeless picture of Wisconsin's prisons by two inmates of Fox Lake who spoke at the association's annual meeting on June 20.

"The prisons have failed, and the inmates are failing themselves," Robert Bimbo told the group. He added, however, that the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Offender Rehabilitation have given Wisconsin inmates hope.

"The men are inspired by the Task Force," Bimbo said. "I hope that what the task force has started will not be a big bonfire and fizzle out."

Bimbo and Douglas Stout, a fellow prisoner at Box Lake, offered criticisms of Wisconsin Correctional institutions.

"Prison officials dealt more in punishment than rehabilitation," Bimbo said. "Prisons are failing because I don't think the staff is giving out what it should. I'm not here to knock prison officials. I know many good ones, but most go in there thinking of nothing but off days and paydays."

Stout concurred with Bimbo's criticism. "Everything in the institution is based on security. All they want from you is a quiet existence," Stout said.

Stout, who is serving a life sentence for murder, described the correctional institution at Waupun where he was prior to Fox Lake as "regimented" and "very, very frustrating."

"They have so many petty rules, he said. "And nobody can tell you what they're for."

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